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Research Article

New record of *Lestica bibundica* Leclercq, 1972 (Hymenoptera, Crabronidae) from West Africa

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Abstract

A new record of *Lestica bibundica* Leclercq, 1972, from Togo is presented. Photos of *L. bibundica*, a distribution map of all species of *Lestica* from tropical Africa, and a determination key of females are given.

Zusammenfassung

Über einen neuen Fund von *Lestica bibundica* Leclercq, 1972 in Togo, wird berichtet. Fotos von *L. bibundica*, eine Verbreitungskarte der drei *Lestica*-Arten des tropischen Afrika und ein Schlüssel zur Unterscheidung der Weibchen werden präsentiert.

Key Words

Aethiopis, *Lestica*, Togo, tropical Africa

Introduction

Three species from tropical Africa are described in the genus *Lestica* Billberg, 1820: *L. bibundica* Leclercq, 1972, from Cameroon; *L. dasymera* Pate, 1948, from Nigeria; and *L. sylvatica* Arnold, 1932, from Zimbabwe. There are few data on the distribution of *Lestica* species in tropical Africa. A new record of *L. bibundica* is reviewed. Photos of *L. bibundica*, distribution maps of all Afro-tropical species of *Lestica*, and a determination key for females are presented.

Materials and methods

The basis of the literature investigation is the internet catalogue of Pulawski (2025). The free software SIMPLEMAPPR is used for the preparation of the distribution map. The geographic coordinates in parentheses are substituted by the author. Digital photos were taken with a JVC KY-F75U camera attached to a Leica Z6 APO dissection microscope. Composite images with an extended depth of field were created using the free software COMBINE Z5. Geographical coordinates are given in decimal degrees.

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Checklist of species

Lestica sylvatica Arnold, 1932

Fig. 3: Distribution

Note. Arnold described the first species of *Lestica* from tropical Africa after a single female and a single male from Zimbabwe: Chirinda Forest (-20.41°S, 32.69°E). Rodgers and Homewood (1982) found it in the East Usambara Mountains (4.75°N, 38.50°E) in Tanzania.

Lestica dasymera Pate, 1948

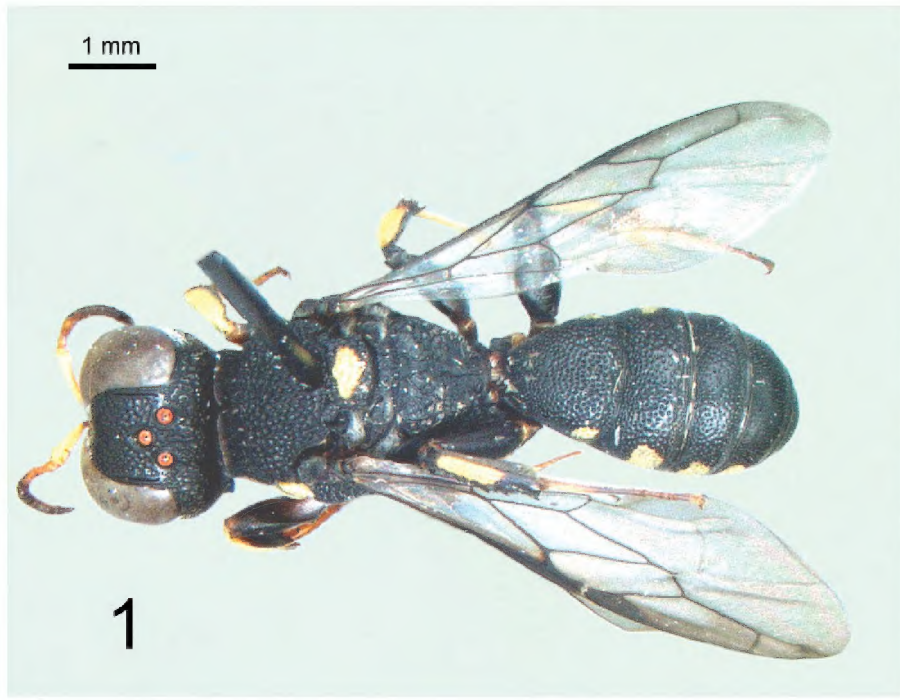
Fig. 3: Distribution

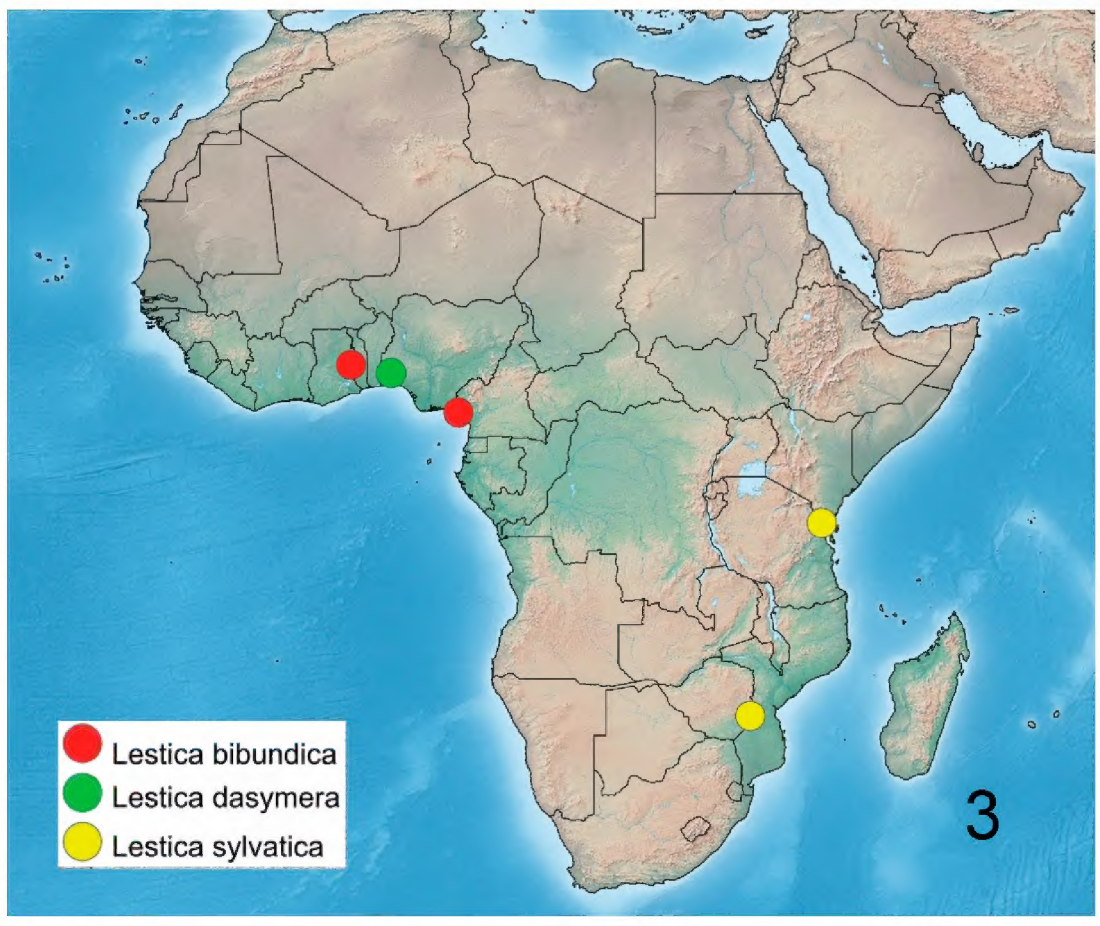
Note. Pate described the species after a single male from Nigeria: Lagos, Olokemeji Forest (7.42°N, 3.53°E) near Ibaden (now Ibadan). Further data on this species are not known. The female is unknown.

Lestica bibundica Leclercq, 1972

Fig. 1: Habitus dorsal; Fig. 2: Habitus lateral; Fig. 3: Distribution

Note. Leclercq (1972) described *Lestica bibundica* after a single female from Cameroon: Bibundi (4.22°N, 8.99°E). According to him, it is the first described species of *Lestica* from tropical Africa, but he overlooked the description of *L. dasymera* by Pate (1948). After that, the species was never found again. In samples taken by the late Joachim Oehlke in Togo (Reg. du Centre SO Yégué, Téntkro, 28.04.2008) (8.08°N, 0.27°E), a single female of this very rare species was found (now in the author's collection). The present specimen was compared with the holotype, stored in the Museum für Naturkunde (Berlin, Germany). It agrees with the type except darker colouration of legs. The male is unknown. It cannot be excluded that *L. bibundica* is the hitherto unknown female of *L. dasymera*, described from Nigeria.





Figures 1–3. 1. *L. bibundica* female: Habitus dorsal. **2.** *L. bibundica* female: Habitus lateral. **3.** Distribution map: *L. bibundica* (red), *L. dasymera* (green), *L. sylvatica* (yellow).

Key to females

1. Pronotal lobe yellow. Scutellum with large yellow spot. Tegula dark brown to black. Yellow lateral spots on tergites II–V trapezoidal. Apical margin of tergum IV black, that of tergum V brown. Hindbasitarsus shorter than hindtibia (0.9×). Basitarsus of all legs reddish brown. Northwest Africa.
***L. bibundica* Leclercq, 1972**

– Pronotal lobe and scutellum black. Yellow lateral spots on tergites II–V transversely elongated. Apical margins of terga IV and V amber-yellow. Hindbasitarsus somewhat longer than hindtibia. Basitarsus of all legs yellow. Southeast Africa. ***L. sylvatica* (Arnold, 1932)**

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